



Board of Supervisors
Linn County, Iowa

Lu Barron - District 1
Linda Langston - District 2
Ben Rogers - District 3
Brent Oleson - District 4
James M. Houser - District 5

Administrative Office Building
930 First Street Southwest
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-2161

July 22, 2009

I-JOBS Board
ATTN: Joseph Jones
c/o Iowa Finance Authority
2015 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312

Dear I-JOBS Board:

The Linn County Board of Supervisors strongly supports the application of the African American Museum of Iowa for I-JOBS funding. The Museum is seeking funding to help with the replacement of its permanent exhibit, lost as a result of the flood of 2008, and the construction of an elevated storage area for its collection of historical artifacts and documents.

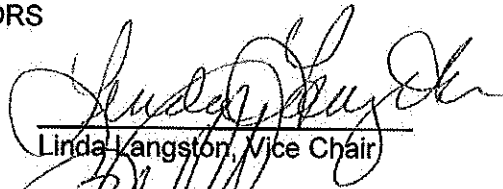
In a relatively short period of time, the African American Museum of Iowa has become part of the fabric of this community. From its beginning as a Black History Month project in 1994 to its current status as a fixture in Cedar Rapids, the board and staff of the Museum have built it into an important cultural and educational resource for the entire state.

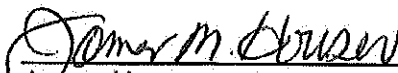
The Museum has taken complete ownership of the flood recovery process and has already raised nearly three-quarters of the amount needed for completion of this project. We believe the African American Museum's application is completely deserving of your support and hope that you will seriously consider approval.


Sincerely,


LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS


Lu Barron, Chair


Linda Langston, Vice Chair


James Houser


Brent Oleson


Ben Rogers

www.linncounty.org

lu.barron@linncounty.org • linda.langston@linncounty.org • ben.rogers@linncounty.org
brent.oleson@linncounty.org • james.houser@linncounty.org
phone 319.892.5000 • fax 319.892.5009





To Ensure Quality Learning
Today For Tomorrow

Prairie Ridge Elementary School
401 78th Ave SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-7034
Office: (319) 848-5100
Fax: (319) 848-5103
www.prairiepride.org

College Community School District
Established 1954

11/11/08

To Whom It May Concern.

My name is Kim Heckart, a third grade classroom teacher at Prairie Ridge Elementary in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is with great pleasure that I write a letter on behalf of the African American Museum. It is also my great challenge to adequately articulate the excellence my students and I have found in the African American Museum. For the past eighteen years as a classroom teacher, I have been on many of field trips to many museums, but none have exceeded my expectations as an educator more than the African American Museum.

I believe that it is my job to design lessons that make seamless connections across the curriculum. The African American Museum has contributed to my repertoire of lesson plans to deepen classroom experiences through their history boxes. Their lesson plans and artifacts provide literacy activities to engage students in social studies and historical thinking. This has allowed my students more rigorous instruction in the area of African American history.

Another aspect, of course, is the hands-on visit my class and other classes experience while touring the exhibits. The museum is a perfect match to the curriculum we have taught in the classroom in the weeks preceding our visit. The kids' eyes widen and the sounds of gasps are often heard as they immerse themselves in the many stories and artifacts the docents share as we connect our previous learning to the real world. The docents make the students feel as though they have entered Africa with the village, beautifully painted murals and artifacts. When entering the slave ship, students feel the emotions of the slaves shackled on the ship as the docent relives the story of the capturing of slaves. As we continue, students encounter a map with the route of the Underground Railroad, and crouch down to look in a mirror hanging on the wall, only to see a slave hiding while trying to make it to freedom. Next, the trials and tribulation of segregation are representative of such a difficult time which is told through artifacts within the museum. Then through the door of opportunity, African Americans depict their many talents to overcome segregation and prevail as human beings. Not only does the museum look at history globally, but also focuses on Iowa African American history. This is an important connection to our curriculum and provides my students with a sense of belonging in the museum.

Each year at open house, my students ask when they get to go to the African American Museum. This year, there was disappointment when they asked about the museum, knowing the flood had destroyed it. I responded by telling them we'd wait and see. Now their hopes have returned since the museum is working towards reopening. It is my great pleasure as an educator to recommend the African American Museum for this grant. My students and I would love to be back in the museum and make the connections to our history that will impact the rest of their lives.

Respectfully,

SOUTHSIDE INVESTMENT BOARD

Oakhill Jackson • New Bohemia

7/30/09

Iowa Department of Economic Development
Iowa Finance Authority
2015 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312
Iowa I-Jobs board

Dear Members of the Board:

The members of the Southside Investment Board strongly believe that the African American Museum of Iowa which is located in the Oakhill Jackson/New Bohemia neighborhood is a crucial and important element in the economic revitalization of our city.

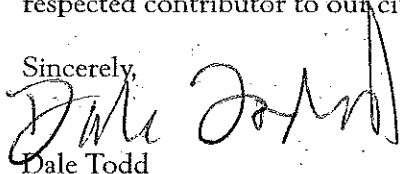
Significantly damaged by the flood of 2008, the museum's request to the I-Jobs board is critical to the economic vitality and sustainability of the museum. This is why the Southside Investment Board is in full support of the museum's request to the I-Jobs board for assistance.

The role of museums and cultural institutions in the economic strength of a city is now a well established and researched fact. The direct and non-direct economic impact of the African American Museum of Iowa through tourism is not just felt in our neighborhood but throughout our city.

Located adjacent other art and cultural institutions in our area this museum plays a vital role by serving as an "economic driver," to our community.

An investment in this important cultural institution will ensure continued growth and success for generations to come; this is why we encourage you to support the request of this valued and respected contributor to our city's future.

Sincerely,



Dale Todd
President
Southside Investment Board
1821 Grande Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Dale Todd, *President* • Scott Jamieson, *Vice President* • Fred Timko, *Treasurer* • Michael Richards, *Secretary*
Mel Andringa • Lijun Chadima • Chuck Hammond • Sarah Ordovery • Bob Rush • Peggy Whitworth • Ed Young

1821 GRANDE AVENUE SOUTHEAST, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52403 • 319.366.8158

RESOLUTION NO. 0735-07-09

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS/LINN COUNTY
COMMUNITY TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE I-JOBS LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE
COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the I-JOBS Local Infrastructure Competitive Grant program was adopted by the State of Iowa Legislature to provide infrastructure investment funding to mitigate disaster recovery from the Flood of 2008, and to provide for employment while stimulating and promoting long term economic growth, and

WHEREAS, the I-JOBS program will provide \$118.5 million to be distributed in competitive grants available for reconstruction of local public buildings and flood control prevention in communities from devastation of the Flood of 2008 throughout the state of Iowa, and the Cedar Rapids/Linn County community will be submitting 23 (twenty-three) competitive grant applications for projects to the I-JOBS Grant Program, including:

Linn County – Administrative Office – Rebuild and Energy Efficiency
Linn County – Juvenile Law Center
City of Cedar Rapids – Reconstruction of Public Parking Ramps
City of Cedar Rapids – Parking Access Revenue Control System (PARCS)
City of Cedar Rapids – Downtown Parking Structure
City of Cedar Rapids – 3rd Street S.E. Streetscape Improvements
City of Cedar Rapids – Intermodal Transportation Facility (ITF)
City of Cedar Rapids – Anaerobic Biogas System Improvements
City of Cedar Rapids – Edgewood Road Reconstruction at Cedar River
City of Cedar Rapids – 6th Street SW Reconstruction
City of Cedar Rapids – Highway 100
City of Cedar Rapids – US Cellular Center Improvements & Events Center Construction
City of Cedar Rapids – Acquisition of Flood-Blighted Downtown Properties
City of Cedar Rapids – Façade of Improvement Incentive Program (F.A.C.E.)
City of Cedar Rapids – Multigenerational Community Life Center – PLAY
City of Cedar Rapids – Joint Communications Network
City of Cedar Rapids – Cedar Rapids Public Library Main Facility
City of Cedar Rapids – Demolition and remediation of the buildings located on the 1100 block of 3rd St S.E. (formerly Quality Chef)
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce – Economic Commerce Center
African American Heritage Foundation of Iowa – African American Museum
Legion Arts – Restoration of CSPS Hall
Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa – JA World
Indian Creek Nature Center – From Flood to Flowers – Crafting a LEED Nature Center
Headquarters in the Beauty of Prairie Flowers

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA that the above noted projects are hereby endorsed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA that submission of applications for the City of Cedar Rapids for the above noted projects are hereby authorized.

Passed this 22nd day of July, 2009.

Voting: Council member Podzimek moved the adoption of the resolution; seconded by Council member Wieneke. Adopted, Ayes, Council members Fagan, Gulick, McGrane, Podzimek, Shey, Shields, Vernon, Wieneke and Mayor Halloran.

Attest:

Kay Halloran, Mayor

Ann Ollinger, City Clerk

July 14, 2009

I-Jobs Board
Attn: Joseph Jones
Iowa Finance Authority
2015 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312

Dear Mr. Jones:

As the Cultural Liaison for the City of Cedar Rapids, I lend my strong and enthusiastic support of the grant funding request from the African American Museum of Iowa for redevelopment of their permanent exhibit and measures to protect the Museum's collection of historical artifacts and documents.

As a former member of the Board in the early days, it is a joy to see what the Museum has become overcoming all odds and all naysayers. In my 26 years as director of BruceMore, I saw many cultural organizations operate. None does a better job of fulfilling its mission while operating in a cautious, fiscally sound manner. AAMI is unique in Iowa and tells an essential story in Iowa's history. As a member of the Board of the State Historic Society, I have first-hand evidence of their statewide impact.

The building was flooded, their spirit was not. Re-opening quickly after the flood, all decisions are grounded in the reality that they will have to move within the next ten years. However, AAMI is determined to serve its constituency now. Consequently, the planned exhibit is modular so can be moved quickly and with ease should the need arise.

The reputation of AAMI among leaders and funders is outstanding. Thomas Moore is an inspirational and dedicated leader of a hard-working staff. The result of their labor benefits Cedar Rapids and the entire state. I-JOBS funding is essential in AAMI's return to full operation of their educational and interpretive mission.

I enjoyed our brief conversation at the recent I-JOBS Board meeting in Cedar Rapids and am delighted that your considerable talent is dedicated to this new program. AAMI is very special and my praise is not given lightly. If I can be of assistance in any way, please contact me at p.whitworth@mchsi.com or by phone at 319/362-9151.

Sincerely

Peggy Boyle Whitworth
Cultural Liaison



Public Affairs & Government Relations

Ryan Irsik, Manager

702 SW 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716
Phone 479.273.4000
www.walmartfacts.com
www.walmart.com

July 20, 2009

I-Jobs Board
Attn: Joseph Jones
Iowa Finance Authority
2015 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312

Dear I-Jobs Board:

As Wal-Mart's Manager for Public Affairs and Government Relations, I write today to lend Wal-Mart's support of the grant funding request from the African American Museum of Iowa for redevelopment of their permanent exhibit and measures to protect the Museum's collection of historical artifacts and documents.

Over the years, Wal-Mart has worked with the African American Museum of Iowa on a number of important projects. Museum personnel have assisted us by leading diversity training classes for our employees at our distribution center in Mt. Pleasant. Most recently, Wal-Mart has served as the presenting sponsor for the African American Museum of Iowa's Women's Conference which brought women from across Iowa to focus on health, family, culture, and leadership. As the only museum of its kind, it provides unique learning opportunities and statewide programming reaching children and families across Iowa. Support for the new exhibit will be a wise investment in the Cedar Rapids community and to the entire state.

I hope that you will seriously consider supporting this truly unique project. I believe this project will be executed with the same level of professionalism used in all endeavors undertaken by the African American Museum of Iowa. If I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact me at 479-204-6349 or ryan.irsik@wal-mart.com.

Sincerely,

Ryan Irsik
Manager of Public Affairs and Government Relations
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

JACK HATCH
STATE SENATOR
Thirty-third District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

DISTRICT OFFICE
696 - 18th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50314
O: (515) 244-2941
jack.hatch@legis.state.ia.us
www.jackhatch.org
jack@hatchdevelopment.com

July 16, 2009

I-Jobs Board
Attn: Joseph Jones
Iowa Finance Authority
2015 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312

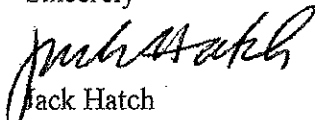
Dear I-Jobs Board:

I write today to lend my support of the grant funding request from the African American Museum of Iowa for redevelopment of their permanent exhibit and measures to protect the Museum's collection of historical artifacts and documents. As a long time supporter of historic preservation, our cultural and architectural history is tightly interwoven to the history of Iowa and this nation. Iowa's history in participating in the forced migration of Africans to America and the discrimination African Americans suffered throughout this country's history needs to be preserved, studied and discussed in an effort to never repeat the same mistakes in the future. The importance of your museum is incalculable to the human spirit and to the economics of this state and nation.

As the only museum of its kind, it provides unique learning opportunities and statewide programming reaching children and families across Iowa. Support for the new exhibit will be a wise investment in the Cedar Rapids community and to the entire state. Even though my district is in Des Moines; your museum provides countless opportunities through the traveling exhibits and loan program for all Iowans to enjoy.

I hope that you will seriously consider supporting this truly unique project. I believe this project will be executed with the same level of professionalism used in all endeavors undertaken by the African American Museum of Iowa. If I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely


Jack Hatch
State Senator



The Senate
State of Iowa
Eighty-second General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

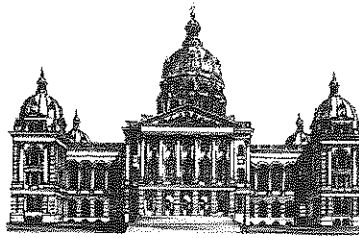
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

COMMITTEES

Appropriations
Economic Growth
Human Resources
Labor and Business Relations
State Government
Health and Human Services
Appropriations Subcommittee,
Chair

Rob Hogg
STATE SENATOR
Nineteenth District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

HOME ADDRESS
2750 Otis Rd. SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403
Office: (319) 247-0223
rob.hogg@legis.state.ia.us



The Senate
State of Iowa
Eighty-third General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

STANDING COMMITTEES

Appropriations
Environment & Energy Independence,
Vice-Chair
Judiciary, *Vice Chair*
Rebuild Iowa, *Chair*
Ways & Means

Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee,
Vice Chair

July 27, 2009

I-JOBS Board
ATTN: Joseph Jones
Iowa Finance Authority
2015 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312

Dear I-JOBS Board:

I am writing in support of the grant funding request from the African American Museum of Iowa for assistance to redevelop its permanent exhibit after the devastating flood of 2008 and also to protect the museum's collections from future flooding.

In 2008, which flooded the museum with several feet of water, the museum's leadership acted decisively to clean and re-open the museum. This grant request is essential to the museum's future, so it can confidently let donors know that its collections will have permanent protection.

This grant request is also very cost-effective. Rather than building a new museum, which would cost many millions, the museum's leadership found a way to maintain its current riverfront location, already elevated out of the 100-year flood plain, while reassuring donors about the permanent safety of the museum's collections.

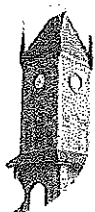
The African American Museum plays a crucial role in Cedar Rapids and across the state as a whole, preserving and celebrating the heritage of African Americans in Iowa, and providing unique learning opportunities and statewide educational programming. The museum is also a great community and economic asset, providing badly needed public meeting space and supporting local efforts to embrace diversity.

I hope you will support the grant request from the African American Museum. If you need any further information, please contact me at (319) 538-2247.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rob Hogg'.

Rob Hogg



NATIONAL
CZECH &
SLOVAK
MUSEUM &
LIBRARY

30 SIXTEENTH AVENUE SW
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA USA 52404-5904
PHONE: 319-362-8500 FAX: 319-363-2209
WWW.NCSML.ORG

July 31, 2009

RE: African American Museum of Iowa I-Jobs Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library would like to lend its support to the application of the African American Museum of Iowa for I-Jobs grant funding. The NCSML has worked closely with the African American Museum since its founding and we have often shared programming and professional expertise. During the disaster of the summer of 2008, we again came together to support each other as we went through the early days of the clean-up and aftermath.

It is critical that the cultural community return to its full level of activity in the community, and even take this opportunity to improve programming. The permanent exhibition that is part of this grant application is the cornerstone of the work of the African American museum, attracting thousands of school children each year for its unique educational experience. It has been over a year since it was destroyed and the AAM has moved forward expeditiously to redesign, fabricate and prepare for installation of a new exhibition. This will cement the flood recovery for this vital organization in our community.

Protection of vital historic artifacts from future flood damage is central to the AAM's mission and the construction of space in the storage area will allow for the museum to prepare for another disaster of this proportion. It is the practical and cost-effective solution for collection protection inside the building.

We applaud the efforts of the African American Museum to recover from the flood of 2008 and hope that you will give your support to their grant application.

With best regards,

Gail Naughton
President/CEO

*Czech Village/New Bohemia Urban Main Street District
Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

July 31, 2009

RE: African American Museum of Iowa I-Jobs Application

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Czech Village/New Bohemia Urban Main Street District, I would like to register our support for the African American Museum application for funding. This project is prominently located in our new Main Street district, which is in the midst of major rebuilding following the flood of 2008.

The African American Museum is an important partner in the Main Street district, attracting thousands each year to our area through exhibitions and programming. For this district to be successful it must maintain and improve its businesses, both for-profit and not-for-profit. This is crucial to returning to pre-flood activity and becoming even stronger and more viable in the future.

The reinstallation of the permanent exhibition and protection of its important artifacts will contribute to the long-term viability of the African American Museum. This in turn will affect the Main Street district and its revitalization as an arts, entertainment and cultural destination.

We hope that you will give this proposal your full support.

Yours truly,



Gail Naughton
President of the Board of Directors
Czech Village/New Bohemia Urban Main Street District